

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method of doing business over a network comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for transmitting digital information after a start time and before an end time, the digital information having a number of packets;

determining the time required to transmit the digital information based on the number of packets and a network speed;

scheduling a transmit time for the digital information; and

accepting the digital information for transmission only if the time required to transmit is less than or equal to the difference between the transmit time and the end time.

2. (Original) A method, as in claim 1, where the digital information is transmitted at a first price.

3. (Original) A method, as in claim 1, where the digital information is rejected for transmission if the time required to transmit is more than the difference between the transmit time and the end time.

4. (Original) A method, as in claim 3, where the digital information is accepted for transmission at a second price.

5. (Original) A method, as in claim 3, where the digital information is rescheduled by the scheduler and accepted for transmission at a second price after the information is rejected.

6. (Original) A method, as in claim 1, that receives an acknowledgment of the transmission.

7. (Original) A method, as in claim 6, that produces a bill on receipt of the acknowledgment.

8. (Original) A method, as in claim 1, where one or more portions of the digital information are accepted for transmission and are transmitted.

9. (Original) A method, as in claim 8, that receives an acknowledgment of the transmission of one or more of the portions.

10. (Original) A method, as in claim 9, that produces a bill on receipt of the acknowledgment for one or more of the portions.

11. (Original) A method, as in claim 1, where one or more portions of the digital information are initially rejected and then accepted for transmission at one or more second times and at one or more second prices.

12. (Original) A method, as in claim 1, where the request has one or more priorities.

13. (Original) A method, as in claim 12, where the priority is that the digital information is transmitted within a time period.

14. (Previously Presented) A method, as in claim 13, where the time period is any one or more of the following: over night, two days, and one week.

15. (Original) A method, as in claim 12, where the priority is a freight priority that requires the digital information to be transmitted within a freight time period with no acknowledgments.

16. (Original) A method, as in claim 1, where the digital information is scheduled from one or more retransmissions if the time required to transmit is more than the difference between the transmit time and the end time.

17. (Original) A method, as in claim 1, where the digital information is scheduled from one or more retransmissions if no acknowledgment of the transmission of the digital information is received.

18. (Original) A method, as in claim 1, where the digital information is also not transmitted if one or more criteria are not met.

19. (Original) A method, as in claim 18, where the criteria include any one or more of the following: a file size, a release time, a deadline, zero or more recipients, zero or more user locations, an acknowledgment, a negative acknowledgment, a partial acknowledgment, a bandwidth, a quality of service, a retransmission count, and a retransmission schedule.

20. (New) A method of doing business over a network, comprising:

receiving from a client a request for transmitting digital information from a source address to at least one recipient, the request comprising the source address, an earliest start time, a maximum cost, a priority, and an identification of the at least one recipient, the digital information having a size;

responsive to the request, determining an end time at which the digital information should be completely transmitted to the at least one recipient;

based at least on the size and a network capacity, determining a total time required to transmit the digital information;

based at least on the size, the determined end time, the determined total time, the priority, and the cost, determining whether the digital information can be completely transmitted to the at least one recipient after the earliest start time and prior to the determined end time;

in response to a determination that the digital information cannot be completely transmitted to the at least one recipient after the earliest start time and prior to the determined end time, notifying the client; and

in response to a determination that the digital information can be transmitted to the at least one recipient:

begin transmitting the digital information at a time that is prior to the end time and later than the earliest start time; and

billing the client an amount that does not exceed the maximum cost.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein determining the end time further comprises determining the end time by using the priority and the start time.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the request further comprises a transmission deadline, and wherein determining the end time further comprises determining the end time by using the transmission deadline.